

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Chief, Language and Area School

DATE: 21 January 1959

FROM : Deputy Chief, Area Training

SUBJECT: Weekly Activities Report

A. SIGNIFICANT ITEMS

1. Our first "Saturday Special" area briefing for dependents was run from 0830 to 1700 hours on the 17th and was successful beyond our hopes. A total of only two or three dozen dependents per year had been enrolled in these Americans Abroad orientations on week-days, while this single Saturday offering drew 16 dependents despite severe weather. These briefings are keyed to the particular foreign areas of assignment and stress problems of personal adjustment to the new society for those entering it the first time. Despite three years of effort in improving and making known this program, however, it receives indifferent support or none at all in a large number of components. We believe this attitude is due either to a lack of appreciation by some supervisors of the critical importance of intercultural adjustment on the part of employees and dependents alike, or to a risky assumption that briefings given in the branches or in the home suffice. We believe that these non-OTR briefings are generally inadequate - if given at all - because they tend to be unsystematic and lack the broad experience of the teams of staff briefers and recent returnees which we use. ✓ TK

Especially gratifying was the help volunteered enthusiastically on the 17th by six employees in various components, including [redacted] of Processing, and [redacted] of LAS.

B. OTHER ACTIVITIES

1. An additional offering of the full Americans Abroad Orientation [redacted] will be run the week of 13 April, followed by a "Saturday Special" on the 18th on Western Europe (in [redacted] and Latin America. This follows a recommendation of EE and is intended to take care of the peak season of PCS assignments. ✓ + R

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2. [] deserves special mention for the highly effective part he played on two panels during the first session of the AAO [] His unusually broad experience [] and his sympathy for our "effective interpersonal relations overseas" theme make him an ideal recruit for the critical opening session of this course.
 3. We still lack the first guest speaker for 5 and 6 March, in our Current Problems Seminar on Free Europe, but are still hopeful that the DD/I will succeed in obtaining a commitment from [] The DD/I informed us on Monday that he was sorry he had not contacted [] during the previous week spent in New York.
 4. We are about to request permission to cancel Free Europe - Regional Survey #3, scheduled to begin 2 February. As of the deadline, only 5 Agency and 3 non-Agency candidates had registered. Thus our best efforts to revise this course in order to fill a serious training need of many case officers and analysts at the Grade 9-13 level have been in vain. [] own earlier experience in DDP and DDI and his recent discussions with supervisors in some components convince him that the regional perspective aimed for in this course is badly needed by personnel who have over-concentrated on one country or one functional specialty. This is our second disappointment with registration for this course, however, and we intend to drop it from our 2-year cycle of survey courses offered in the Western Department, believing that our meagre resources should be concentrated on high priority items such as the new course on effective interpersonal relations overseas and an expansion of the senior-level Current Problems Seminars.
 5. Permission has been requested to cancel the Basic Country Survey course on the Balkan States, originally scheduled to run from 11 May 59 to 12 June 59. Cancellation is attributed to the fact that the extension of the course on East Germany, Poland and Czechoslovakia to ten weeks gives us insufficient time to prepare for the course on the "Balkan States" this spring. In addition, our attempts to "beg or borrow" an instructor were unsuccessful.
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